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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/046,414	11/09/2001	Rick Korczak	7836/83306	2098

7590 12/13/2004

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EXAMINER

MARSH, STEVEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/046,414	KORCZAK ET AL.	
	Examiner Steven M Marsh	Art Unit 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6,8-13,24-26,29-32,37,39,40,49,73-75,78,82,142 and 143 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6,8-13,24-26,29-32,37,39,40,49,73-75,78,82,142, and 143 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This is the fourth office action for U.S. Application 10/046,414 for an Anchor Rail Adapter and Hanger Method filed by Korezak et al. on November 9, 2001. Claims 7, 14-23, 27, 28, 33-36, 38, 41-48, 50-72, 76, 77, 79-81, 83-141 have been canceled. Claims 142 and 143 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 24-26, 29, 37, 39, 40, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kreinberg et al. Kreinberg et al. discloses an adapter comprising a planar, top mounting surface (48), flanges (50 and 62, 54 and 64) depending from the mounting surface, and mounting legs extending from the flanges. The mounting legs (20, 22) each have a hook-like portion (26) extending substantially along the width of the mounting leg and the adapter is flexible to permit urging of the flanges inwardly toward one another. The mounting legs include an inwardly extending portion (36, 40) contiguous with a downwardly extending portion, wherein the hook-like portion is formed at an end of the downwardly extending portion. An opening (56) is formed in the mounting surface, which is the top, planar surface. The adapter being flexible (see the abstract) to permit urging of the flanges toward each other. There is at least one binding element (72) formed on the inwardly extending portion of at least one of the mounting legs cooperating with the hook-like portion.

Claims 73-75, 78, 82, 142, and 143 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,536,281 to Meehan et al. Meehan et al. discloses a unitary

resilient adapter (12) with a hanger receiving portion (84 and 86). The adapter has opposed mounting legs (58 and 60) with feet (66 and 68) configured to engage a channel lip and an opening (98). There is an article support hanger 10 with a portion configured to be received by the hanger receiving portion of the adapter. The article support hanger is configured to engage the adapter with a snap action and lock into the hanger receiving portion. The article support hanger can also be stacked and has a provision (24, 34) whereby a second article support hanger could be connected to it. A swivel joint (88) connects the adapter and hanger and the support has a generally U-shaped configuration with support legs that could engage the adapter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kreinberg in view of U.S. Patent 5,533,696 to Laughlin et al. Kreinberg does not disclose a binding element in the form of a tab formed in the inwardly extending portion that is defined by a pair of notches in the inwardly extending portion. Laughlin et al. provides a teaching for providing inwardly extending tabs (72) defined by a pair of notches (on each side of the tab) on the inner leg portion of an adapter to further secure an object in the receiving space. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have provided the tabs taught by Laughlin et al., on the interior of the legs taught by Kreinberg, for the purpose of further securing an object in the adapter.

Claims 11, 12, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kreinberg in view of U.S. Patent 6,452,095 B1 to Perrault. Kreinberg does not disclose a collar with threads formed therein. Perrault discloses a hanger (see figs. 9 and 10) for suspending cables from a threaded rod (54). The mounting surface (see fig. 10 and 11) includes a collar (57) with threads formed therein for suspending the hanger from a threaded rod (54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have utilized a threaded collar on the mounting surface taught by Kreinberg, as taught by Perrault, for the purpose of providing a secure connection for hanging the hanger from a threaded rod.

Claims 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kreinberg. Kreinberg does not specifically disclose a curved mounting surface for mounting the hanger. However, the shape of the mounting surface is a matter of design preference that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention.

Claims 13 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kreinberg in view of Andre. Kreinberg does not disclose a plurality of downwardly, inwardly oriented tabs extending from a periphery of the opening. Andre provides a teaching of providing downwardly, inwardly oriented tabs around the periphery of an opening for supporting a cylindrical member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have provided downwardly/inwardly oriented tabs around the periphery of the opening taught by

Kreinberg, as taught by Andre, for the purpose of securing a cylindrical member (in this case the threaded rod) within the opening.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed September 24, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments filed on March 11, 2004 were responded to in the previous action

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Marsh whose telephone number is

(703) 305-0098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3597.

Shh
Steven M. Marsh
December 8, 2004



LESLIE A. BRAUN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER